individual integrity inviolate. James seems to say that preserving the integrity of the artist in a hostile world is a difficult achievement, and that, in the noble task of serving art, no sacrifice is great or supreme. In material terms, Nick's sacrifice brings ruin upon himself and his family; but in spiritual terms, it enables him to work out his salvation as an artist.

Refinement consists in one recognizing and accepting the inestimable service of art to mankind. The artist is as much an arbiter and saviour of his race as the politician or the statesman. The 'obstinate finality' of art is the one human resource of man's immortality. The artist by being true to his art lends permanence to a society which is otherwise impermanent, tentative and unmeaningful. Art is what renders life meaningful. *The Tragic Muse* is thus a plea by Henry James for the revision of the status of the artist in society. Julia's final gesture of inviting Nick to paint her portrait is, doubtless, indicative of the change in her attitude towards art. Sh.e .appears to have at last acquired the necessary refinement to appreciate the claims of art as an ennobling force.

The 'theatrical case' is the success-story of the Tragic Muse, Miriam Booth. The good-looking but crude Miriam is an industrious and determined girl. Her ambition is to become a great actress, and to achieve this end she works hard with resolution and courage. Her great personal charm, her resolute self-confidence, and her perpetual good-humour are priceless assets to her in her profession. She is encouraged in her aspiration by Peter Sherringham, the brother of Julia and an important personage in the diplomatic service. Peter's passion for the theatre is not the outcome of a blind infatuation with it, but the result of a discerning and intelligent appreciation of its moral and spiritual influences. He is a believer in art, and Is its "best judge, the best critic, the best observer,"[18] and is recognized by Miriam as her 'master'. His criticisms and suggestions help her

progress as an actress from obscure beginnings to artistic greatness
and fame. In Peter she finds her source of inspiration; in grand old
Madame Carre she finds a great teacher; and in the great Mile.
Voisin, she finds an emulous example. When she first recites passages
and poems in the drawing room of Madame Carre, she fails miserably
to impress her auditors. The girl is not, however, disheartened by her
failure. She applies herself to the task of improving herself with
commendable diligence, courage and self-confidence. By grinding